

# The Pocahontas Times.

Vol. XXX No. 23

Marlinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, January 11, 1912

\$1.00 A Year

## DOWN WITH THE

### SINE QUA NON

"And wisely tell what hour of the day  
The clock doth strike, by Algebra."  
—Butler.  
"The languages, especially the dead,  
The sciences, and most of all the abstruse,  
The arts, at least all such as could be said  
To be the most remote from common use,  
In all these I was much and deeply read."  
—Byron.

"In mathematics he was greater  
Than Tycho Brahe, or Erra Pater;  
For he by geometric scale,  
Could take the size of pots of ale."  
—Butler.

Only those who are in favor of heresy will kindly seek to penetrate the mysteries of this disquisition. For we are about to maintain that mathematics should not be made the sine qua non, or (to put the fodder a little lower in the rack,) the indispensable part of the school curriculum.

Arithmetic may be one child's meat and another's poison, to use a well worn illustration. As we get along old theories prove often to be from false premises, or from some other cause inadequate. The old rule was that the three R's were absolutely required: Rithmetic, Reading and Riteing.

One great old world university has two systems of graduation, one in literature and another in mathematics, and if a student take both he has great credit for the extraordinary work that he has done and is known as a double first.

I do not believe that it is of so much importance in a university

courses as he prefers. But it is a sad tragedy in a school for children when they are required to excel in mathematics, when the logical powers to be developed therefrom do not materialize. When instead of getting a benefit from the puzzles found in the arithmetic, it actually results in the clouding of the mind.

We might divide the children in two great classes: Those who are fascinated, interested and amused, and consequently educated by arithmetic, and those who suffer from the puzzles, and who actually have a distaste for school on account of the absurd things that are required of them in the arithmetic.

Two children may have equal gifts on the who's as to taking an education. One because of a teacher who can give the key to the puzzle takes a liking to the conundrums and learns to use logic in getting the answers, becomes a scholar and an educatee; the other because of not having a teacher who could impart this information and instill a mathematical germ, sees no good in it, and not being allowed to substitute another study or occupation, never takes an education.

Is it not the truth, that one of the most common things to be observed in this life, is to find bright successful men and women, who have never passed examinations, and in the same community to find dull and unsuccessful people who can pass examinations, but who are of very little use in the world. A misery to themselves and every body else.

The cause is not far to seek. To one school was not as good as prison, and as school children they did not have the opportunity to find that mathematical propositions were nothing more or less than puzzles, which if they did not take to, and like, they could let alone. Trying to force these horrible examples down the throat of innocent children, who were not told that it was all a game, to get the answer, has ruined the chances of a large per cent of the people to become educated in our schools.

If it were possible for a man to become fond of books without having the ability to figure in addition, subtraction, multiplication

and division, he could when grown learn enough arithmetic in one day to carry on the ordinary business affairs of life.

Why, then, for instance, in our examinations for school teachers should there be examinations in abstruse mathematical problems? I have known some good checker players. It would be easy for them to pass an examination in this art. Yet some other useful person did not like the game, and never learned it. It would hardly be fair to withhold a teachers certificate because he was not an adept at checker playing. The same is true of the jig-saw puzzle. It ought to be true of arithmetic.

My own experience in mathematics has been satisfactory. When I went up for examinations in the old days for teacher's certificates, the arithmetic was the easiest part of the whole performance. All around me were ladies who were better men than me, having all kinds of trouble with puzzles the board of examiners were putting up for them to reason out. I say these women did not get a fair show. It was my game all right but not theirs. I do not know for certain, but I would be willing to bet dollars against doughnuts, that some examiners in order to keep up the nefarious practice of including these mathematical puzzles on their lists, have a way of allowing certain cryptic marks which enable good teachers to pass, though weak in arithmetic. If this is true it only adds to the evidence of the charge of fraud in forcing this study upon the schools, or rather the interpretation of the law compelling mathematics to be taught. Examinations in arithmetic are required by statute. But it does not require that this part

of the examination be restricted to the rudiments of the science, say addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, so as to give all applicants an equal chance for a general examination. To take a class one half of which are fond of and expert at this puzzle solving game, and the other half are not, is not a good test, and strikes me as being a good case for an exhortation, if not for an injunction.

On the other hand you might take this view of the dilemma, that if it were not this way the women in these examinations would make the men suffer by comparison, and it is kept up to save the face of the lord and master of creation. It is well known that men excel in arithmetic and in the art of chewing tobacco. Hence the handicap. Let the powers that be ponder on the idea that is meant to be conveyed in these few, ill chosen words and see if they have not pushed the puzzle business too far.

Bacon attempts to divide up the studies in their effect on formation of character. He says that history makes men wise; mathematics makes men subtle, and so forth. It has made them subtle enough to put arithmetic to the fore in examinations.

Dead letter list for week ending January 6, 1912.  
Allen, Miss Emma  
Daily, Mrs. Myrtle  
Johnston, U. S.  
Morris, P. M.  
Stanbaugh, J. I.  
Cards: Ray, Albert  
Roberts, Joe  
Sturgill, Miss Sadie 2.  
If not called for will be sent to dead letter office Jan. 20, 1912.  
A. S. Overholt, P. M.

**Cattle Estray**  
Strayed from my place in Randolph County about 20 head of cattle. Part of them are marked with two underbits in right ear, and part may be marked with two underbits in left ear, and they may have some other marks that were in their ears when I bought them. These cattle were bought in Greenbrier county and will likely make an effort to get back where they came from. Any party finding these cattle or taking same up, and notifying the undersigned will be paid for their trouble.  
W. B. Anderson,  
Franklin, W. Va.

**ABORIGINAL REMAINS**  
**IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY**  
(The Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, D. C., is preparing a handbook, listing the mounds, quarries, camping-grounds of the aborigines of the United States. The following relates to such remains known to exist in Pocahontas county, and was prepared by Dr. N. R. Price at the request of Mr. T. W. Hodge, Ethnologist in charge of the Bureau and who is collecting the material for the work.)

As stated in my former letter I have been an investigator of aboriginal remains in Pocahontas county, West Virginia, and have made a collection of several thousand fine specimens of Indian stone relics. These investigations and collections have extended over a period of twenty-five years, during which time I have visited every part of the county where camping sites were reported to exist, and have visited nearly every earth work or mound.

My observations and the traditional history of early settlers of this region led me to believe that there were no permanent settlements in this part, that is to say that the region was visited by Indians only in their migratory fashion, or perhaps at certain seasons for the fine hunting and fishing that was had here, and which is still a favorite resort of hunters of the white race. The larger articles and cooking utensils that mark the more permanent camp sites in other localities, as in the region of the Chesapeake Bay, and along the Ohio river, are almost entirely lacking here. The camp sites are usually well marked by the presence of numerous broken; beds of periwinkle shells, if near the river, and the presence of curious river rocks of some sort that bears heat well, that are pitted on both sides, presumably to allow of handling, and have been used in the crude cookery that prevailed with this primitive people. These camping grounds may be looked for at a point where there is high ground at or near the juncture of some stream that joins the Greenbrier river, the principal stream that rises in the eastern part of the state.

Pocahontas county has the distinction of having the greatest elevation of any county in the state, and give rise to more streams than any other. The headwaters of the Greenbrier, the Elk, Cheat, Williams river, Cranberry, Gauley, and several others of less importance. Its forests of pine and hardwoods are the finest in the state.

Marlinton, the county seat, is situated at the junction of Knapps creek with the Greenbrier river from the east, and Stony Creek from the west. The Indian Draft is an offshoot of Stony creek valley, and an old Indian trail leads up this "draft" four miles to the foot of Elk mountain and across Elk mountain to the head of the Crooked Fork of Elk river. The valley of Knapps creek was followed to the junction with Douthards creek fourteen miles to the crossing of the main Allegheny range to the waters of Jacksons river in Bath county, Virginia. All these are today main highways of travel, and within historical times armed bands of marauding Indians from the Ohio country have been pursued by the avenging pioneers of the Valley and Augusta, Virginia. The other great highway for the aborigines in crossing to the Ohio from what now constitutes the state of Virginia, was to follow the valleys of the New and Kanawha rivers, about seventy miles to the south.

At Marlinton there are numerous evidences of long occupancy. Within a few hundred yards of the courthouse there is a mound of considerable dimensions, although about obliterated by the plow. Within the memory of persons now living it was about ten feet

## ABORIGINAL REMAINS

in height. Another mound of earth and stone is situated in the bottom lands near the river, and near the residence of Mr. C. W. Price. From this mound were removed within the past year the remains of at least seven adult skeletons. These had been buried in a manner that indicated that all the bodies had been thrown together and earth heaped on them, or else at some time the skeletons had been disturbed, and afterwards returned to the mound. A short time ago a skeleton had been discovered in this mound but no other relics. There are a few mounds in the vicinity of Dunmore and Greenbank in the upper part of Pocahontas county, but the writer has never seen them.

There is no evidence that the Indians traveled far into what was a dense forest back from the Greenbrier river and its branches and tributaries. In fact in the fields that have in late years been cleared and cultivated on the uplands and higher mountains only rarely are the arrow points discovered, such as might have been lost in the chase, while nearly every field on the low lands is thickly strewn with these evidences of early occupancy, and at some of camp sites mentioned thousands of arrow points and other relics have been collected after the plowing of the fields, and the soil continues to yield an apparently undiminished supply to those who care to look for them.

Flint, the usual material for the manufacture of arrow points and spear heads, is native to the limestone formation of the county, and several beds are known to have been worked. One on the headwaters of Stony creek, another on Stamping Creek. In the vicinity of both these beds there is

possession of the country, or their immediate forebears, as the word, "Indian mound," in general use even to this day, sufficiently proves.

My own opinion is that the Indians as known to historic times were in the habit of throwing up mounds, generally in the neighborhood of their camps, to commemorate some special occasion, as the death of a number of men in battle, or the grave of a distinguished man in the tribe. However, I do not remember to have read that any of the mounds of which I ever heard were freshly built at the time of their discovery by the whites. On the contrary, all of which there is any record of early discovery bore the signs of great antiquity, being covered with an ancient growth of forest trees.

A large mound four miles below Marlinton on the top of a high hill, in the primeval forest, has never been disturbed except for a hole sunk from the top about six feet to the level of the surrounding earth, at which depth a thick layer of ashes was found. A very large oak growing on this mound was uprooted many years ago, and tore away a part of one side. This mound is composed of earth and stones, all the stones having been conveyed a distance of several hundred feet, as there is none in the immediate vicinity of the mound. There is probably thirty or forty tons of loose rock in this mound. It is near the mouth of Swago creek and many relics and other signs of occupancy have been noted in the fields near this mound and in the region surrounding.

At Clover Lick, on the Warwick estate, there are several mounds of the usual form and size. These are at the mouth of Clover Creek, and was a famous resort for Indians, a trail leading from Clover Creek valley through the Rider Gap and Big Spring gap to the waters of Old Field Fork and Big Spring Fork of Elk river, respectively. One of these mounds was opened about one hundred years ago by the late Jacob Warwick, a first settler, an Indian fighter who was at the battle of Point Pleasant, 1774, a veteran of the Revolution. The well preserved bones of an adult were found

Anna Bell, infant child of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Williams, Valley Center, Va., died December 6, 1911. A babe is like the "breathing" rose,  
That sweetens home and heart;  
And Oh, how slow we are to learn  
The rose may soon depart.  
This rose-bud stem is broken now,  
And the fair blossom gone;  
We cannot find it anywhere,  
For it has upward flown.  
The mother's eyes are full of tears  
Emptier her arms tonight—  
The babe she loved has slipped  
away.  
List! from the dark to light.  
Fond mother, grieve not over-  
much,  
These days so sad and lone;  
God giveth,—and God taketh too,  
What is his very own.  
Earth's paths, perhaps, might be  
o'er rough  
For a soft sweet blossom fair,  
So angels bore it hence to bloom.  
On Jesus bosom there,  
A. L. P.

**Notice to Creditors.**  
To the creditors of Ivy M. Sharp. In pursuance of a decree of the circuit court of Pocahontas county West Virginia, made in a cause therein pending to subject the real estate of the said Ivy M. Sharp to the payment of her debts you are required to present your claims against the estate of the said Ivy M. Sharp for adjudication to T. S. McNeil, Commissioner at his office in the town of Marlinton, W. Va. on or before the 25th day of January, 1912.  
Witness, G. W. Sharp, Clerk of the said court, this 9th day of December, 1911.  
G. W. SHARP, Clerk.

**Notice to take Depositions**  
To W. W. Graham, W. T. S. Graham and the First National Bank of Marlinton:  
Take notice, that on the 13th day of January, A. D. 1912, between the hours of 9 o'clock a. m. and 6 o'clock p. m. at the law office of F. E. Parrock, in the town of Tunnelton, W. Va., I will take the depositions of myself and others, to be read as evidence in my behalf, in a certain suit in chancery now pending in the circuit court of the county of Pocahontas and State of West Virginia, in which I am plaintiff and you are defendants.  
If from any cause the taking of said depositions shall not be commenced or completed on the day aforesaid, the same shall be continued from day to day or from time to time, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.  
O. A. Shaffer,  
By Counsel  
F. E. Parrock, J. W. Yeager, Sols.

**Commissioner's Sale.**  
Pursuant to a decree of the Circuit court of Pocahontas county West Virginia, entered at the October term, 1911, of said court in the chancery cause of Bank of Marlinton vs Pat Gay and others, the undersigned special commissioners will on  
Tuesday, January 16, 1912,  
the first day of the January term, 1912, of said court, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, the following valuable tracts of land:  
1st. The Williams River property consisting of two tracts of 700 acres and 141 acres respectively, known as the Shearer lands described in the deed from Rose Shearer and others to Pat Gay of record in said county in deed book 39 at page 445. This is one of the most important grazing properties in the county.  
2nd. The Jacob S. Moore tract of 360 3-4 acres on Old Field Fork of Elk River described in the deed for said land of record in said county in deed book 36 at page 391. This is a valuable farm and grazing property.  
3rd. The Levi Gay home tract of 68 3-4 acres closeto the town of Marlinton described in the deed from Campbell Lumber Company to Pat Gay of record in said county in deed book number 44 page 157. This is a very valuable tract of land and very close to town.  
All sold for liens. Said tracts will be offered separately and then together.  
Terms of Sale: One fourth cash, and the residue in three equal payments falling due on one, two and three years respectively from date of sale, the purchaser or purchasers executing interest bearing bonds with good personal security, the title to be retained until all payments are made.  
L. M. McCLINTIC,  
ANDREW PRICE,  
Special Commissioners.  
I, G. W. Sharp, clerk of the circuit court of Pocahontas county, do certify that the above named special commissioners have executed a decree.  
G. W. SHARP, Clerk.

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To W. W. Dempsey:  
Take Notice, That on the 14th day of January, A. D. 1912, between the hours of 8 o'clock a. m. and 6 o'clock p. m., at the law office of S. T. Spears, in the city of Elkins, Randolph county, West Virginia, I will take the depositions of A. G. Miller and others, to be read as evidence in my behalf, in a certain suit in equity now pending in the circuit court of the county of Pocahontas, and State of West Virginia, in which I, A. G. Miller, am plaintiff and you, W. W. Dempsey are defendant.  
If from any cause the taking of said deposition shall not be commenced or completed on the day aforesaid, the same shall be continued from day to day, or from time to time, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.  
A. G. MILLER,  
By Counsel,  
Price, Osenton & Horan, Sols.

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Take Notice, That on the 14th day of January, A. D. 1912, between the hours of 8 o'clock a. m. and 6 o'clock p. m., at law office of S. T. Spears, in the city of Elkins, Randolph county, West Virginia, will take the depositions of A. G. Miller and others to be read as evidence in our behalf, in a certain suit in equity now pending in the Circuit of the County of Pocahontas, and State of West Virginia, in which A. G. Miller and S. T. Spears partners trading as A. G. Miller & Company are plaintiffs, and W. W. Dempsey is defendant.  
If from any cause the taking of said deposition shall not be commenced or completed on the day aforesaid, the same shall be continued from day to day or from time to time, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.  
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By counsel,  
Price, Osenton & Horan, Sol.

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